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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/05383 (22) International Filing Date: 1 April 1997 (01.04.97)  (30) Priority Data: 60/014,592 3 April 1996 (03.04.96) US 9613462.2 27 June 1996 (27.06.96) GB 60/022,582 24 July 1996 (24.07.96) US 9617257.2 16 August 1996 (16.08.96) GB  (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MERCK & CO., INC. [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ANTHONY, Neville, J. [GB/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065 (US). STOKKER, Gerald, E. [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065 (US). GOMEZ, Robert, P. [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065 (US). SOLINSKY, Kelly, M. [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065 (US). WAI, John, S. [GB/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065 (US). WILLIAMS, Theresa, M. [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065 (US). YOUNG, Steven, D. [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065 (US).		(US). HUTCHINSON, John, H. [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065 (US). HALCZENKO, Wasyl [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065 (US).  (74) Common Representative: MERCK & CO., INC.; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065 (US).  (81) Designated States: AL, AM, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CN, CU, CZ, EE, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KG, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LT, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, US, UZ, VN, YU, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	
(54) Title: INHIBITORS OF FARNESYL-PROTEIN TRANSFERASE			
(57) Abstract  The present invention is directed to compounds which inhibit farnesyl-protein transferase (FTase) and the farnesylation of the oncogene protein Ras. The invention is further directed to chemotherapeutic compositions containing the compounds of this invention and methods for inhibiting farnesyl-protein transferase and the farnesylation of the oncogene protein Ras.			

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TITLE OF THE INVENTION

## INHIBITORS OF FARNESYL-PROTEIN TRANSFERASE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5           The Ras proteins (Ha-Ras, Ki4a-Ras, Ki4b-Ras and N-Ras) are part of a signalling pathway that links cell surface growth factor receptors to nuclear signals initiating cellular proliferation. Biological and biochemical studies of Ras action indicate that Ras functions like a G-regulatory protein. In the inactive state, Ras is bound to GDP.

10   Upon growth factor receptor activation Ras is induced to exchange GDP for GTP and undergoes a conformational change. The GTP-bound form of Ras propagates the growth stimulatory signal until the signal is terminated by the intrinsic GTPase activity of Ras, which returns the protein to its inactive GDP bound form (D.R. Lowy and

15   D.M. Willumsen, *Ann. Rev. Biochem.* 62:851-891 (1993)). Mutated *ras* genes (Ha-*ras*, Ki4a-*ras*, Ki4b-*ras* and N-*ras*) are found in many human cancers, including colorectal carcinoma, exocrine pancreatic carcinoma, and myeloid leukemias. The protein products of these genes are defective in their GTPase activity and constitutively

20   transmit a growth stimulatory signal.

          Ras must be localized to the plasma membrane for both normal and oncogenic functions. At least 3 post-translational modifications are involved with Ras membrane localization, and all 3 modifications occur at the C-terminus of Ras. The Ras C-terminus

25   contains a sequence motif termed a "CAAX" or "Cys-Aaa<sup>1</sup>-Aaa<sup>2</sup>-Xaa" box (Cys is cysteine, Aaa is an aliphatic amino acid, the Xaa is any amino acid) (Willumsen *et al.*, *Nature* 310:583-586 (1984)). Depending on the specific sequence, this motif serves as a signal sequence for the enzymes farnesyl-protein transferase or geranylgeranyl-protein

30   transferase, which catalyze the alkylation of the cysteine residue of the CAAX motif with a C<sub>15</sub> or C<sub>20</sub> isoprenoid, respectively. (S. Clarke., *Ann. Rev. Biochem.* 61:355-386 (1992); W.R. Schafer and J. Rine, *Ann. Rev. Genetics* 30:209-237 (1992)). The Ras protein is one of several proteins that are known to undergo post-translational farnesyl-